

**U. S. Department of the Interior
U. S. Department of Agriculture**

Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Charter

1. **Official Designation.** Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is established in furtherance of the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Duties.** The Council provides advice about wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that (a) benefit wildlife resources; (b) encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the Federal Government; and (c) benefit recreational hunting.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council's duties are strictly advisory and consist of, but are not limited to, providing recommendations for:
 - (a) Implementing the *Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan – A Ten-Year Plan for Implementation*;
 - (b) Increasing public awareness of and support for the Wildlife Restoration Program
 - (c) Fostering wildlife and habitat conservation and ethics in hunting and shooting sports recreation;
 - (d) Stimulating sportsmen and women's participation in conservation and management of wildlife and habitat resources through outreach and education;
 - (e) Fostering communication and coordination among state, tribal, and Federal governments; industry; hunting and shooting sportsmen and women; wildlife and habitat conservation and management organizations; and the public;
 - (f) Providing appropriate access to Federal lands for recreational shooting and hunting;
 - (g) Providing recommendations to improve implementation of Federal conservation programs that benefit wildlife, hunting and outdoor recreation on private lands; and
 - (h) When requested by the DFO in consultation with the Council Chairperson, performing a variety of assessments or reviews of policies, programs, and efforts through the Council's designated subcommittees or workgroups.
5. **Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture through the DFO.
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the Department of the Interior.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$300,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and one Federal staff years support.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council will consist of no more than 18 discretionary and 7 ex officio members.
 - (a) Ex officio members:
 - (1) Director, Fish and Wildlife Service or designated representative;
 - (2) Director, Bureau of Land Management or designated representative;
 - (3) Director, National Park Service or designated representative;
 - (4) Chief, U.S. Forest Service or designated representative;
 - (5) Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service or designated representative;
 - (6) Administrator, Farm Service Agency or designated representative; and
 - (7) Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).
 - (b) The remaining members will be selected from among national interest groups listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the authority to represent their designated constituency.
 - (1) State fish and wildlife resource management agencies
 - (2) Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
 - (3) Game bird hunting organizations;
 - (4) Waterfowl hunting organizations;
 - (5) Big game hunting organizations;
 - (6) Sportsmen and women community at large;
 - (7) Archery, hunting and/or shooting sports industry
 - (8) Hunting and shooting sports outreach and education organizations;
 - (9) Tourism, outfitter and/or guide industries related to hunting and/or shooting sports;
 - (10) Tribal resource management organizations.

Members will be appointed for three-year terms.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.


13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposed of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** The Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

JAN 11 2012

Date



Secretary of Agriculture

2/6/12

Date

FEB 22 2012

Date Filed